GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2522
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
SUBSTANDARD ANTI-RABBIES VACCINE
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anti-rabbies vaccines used in Government hospitals are usually of sub-standard and due to their side effects other diseases develop in patients, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have also banned that vaccine; and

(b) if so, the view of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) is released to the Government hospitals by the ARV manufacturing institutes after being declared of standard quality at the Central Drug Laboratory, Kasauli.The ARV used in the Government hospitals is given to the patients free of cost and is a Neural Tissue Vaccine (NTV).The WHO is of the view,that the use of this vaccine should be limited or abandoned completely, where economically or technically possible. The Vaccine Production Board has also recommended the phasing out of the production of NTV. The production of Tissue Culture ARV (TCARV) has already been started at Human Biological Institute Udhagamandalam (A Public Sector Institute) and Chiron Behring Vaccine Ltd., Ankaleshwar (a private sector institute).Efforts are being made by the Government for equipping more number of ARV manufacturing institutes to produce TCARV.